OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER-NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 263

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a description to represent the lectotype of the nominal species *Papilio podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera)

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 263

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A DESCRIPTION TO REPRESENT THE LECTOTYPE OF THE NOMINAL SPECIES "PAPILIO PODALIRIUS" LINNAEUS, 1753 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER LEPIDOPTERA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, the first of the three references cited by Linnaeus when publishing the name *Papilio podalirius* (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera), namely the reference cited as "*Raj. ins.* iii. n.3" (i.e. Ray (J.), 1710, *Hist. Ins.* : III, n. 3), is hereby designated to represent the lectotype of the foregoing nominal species.

(2) In view of the fact that in the passage cited above Ray stated that the specimens there referred to were taken "prope Liburnum, portum in Etruria" (i.e. at the port of Livorno in Tuscany), this locality becomes, under (1) above, the restricted locality for the nominal species *Papilio podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758.

(3) The undermentioned specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology as Names Nos. 77 and 78 : (a) podalirius Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination Papilio podalirius and as defined in (1) and (2) above ; (b) feisthamelii Duponchel 1832, as published in the combination Papilio feisthamelii, this entry on the Official List to be without prejudice to the prior rights of the specific name podalirius, from the standpoint of those specialists who regard these as the names of subspecies of a single collective species.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 18th March 1945, Dr. A. Steven Corbet (British Museum (Natural History), London) submitted to the International

Commission the following preliminary note foreshadowing an application for a ruling as to which of two allied species is that to which the name *Papilio podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) should be held to apply, i.e. whether it applied to the Common Central European species commonly known by that name or, alternatively, to the North African and Spanish species or subspecies universally known by the specific name *feisthamelii* Duponchel, 1832 :—

Request for a Ruling on the question of the species to which the name "podalirius" Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination "Papilio podalirius" should be applied

By A. STEVEN CORBET (British Museum (Natural History), London)

Extract from a letter dated 18th March 1945

I enclose a draft of some notes on *Papilio podalirius* L...., which contains all the relevant information, although I feel sure that it could be put together in a more logical manner. Regarding *P. podalirius*, it looks as if the type selection by Aurivillius ought to be taken into consideration, although it should not be overlooked that Aurivillius was concerned primarily with the Lepidoptera described in the *Mus. Lud. Ulr.* and not those in the *Syst. Nat.* ed. 10.

Enclosure to Dr. A. Steven Corbet's letter of 18th March 1945

"Papilio podalirius" Linnaeus, 1758

This name was first introduced by Linnaeus in a footnote to *Papilio* protesilaus on page 463 of Edition 10 of the Systema Naturae (1758). No description was given but reference was made to descriptions by Ray, Rösel and Réaumur and there were added "Habitat in Europae australis & Africae Brassica". Of the authors cited by Linnaeus, only Ray gave a locality : "Prope Liburnum portum in Etruria invenimis, atque etiam, ni male memini, in Anglia". There is a female specimen of the North African butterfly *P. feisthamelii* Dup.,* summer brood *lotteri* Aust. in the Linnean Collection which bears the name "podalirius" in Linnaeus' handwriting. Had this specimen been in the Linnean Collection at the time Edition 10 was written

332

^{*} Spelling checked : Verity incorrect.

it would have been regarded as the type but, as Verity suggests, there are reasons for believing that this specimen reached Linnaeus after Edition 10 had been completed and that Linnaeus had no first-hand knowledge of the butterfly at the time that he wrote the description.

Linnaeus published a detailed description of *P. podalirius* in *Mus. Lud. Ulr.* in 1764 (p. 208), citing further references but giving "Habitat in Brassica Europae australioris". When he examined the Queen's collection, Aurivillius found no specimen corresponding to *podalirius*, but he selected Rösel's figure as typical.

In 1767, Edition 12 of *Systema Naturae* (p. 751), Linnaeus gave an abbreviated description of *P. podalirius*, adding three more citations and amending the provenance to "Habitat in Brassica Europae australis Africaeque borealis".

2. The question as to which species, $\dagger P.$ podalirius auctt. or *P. feisthamelii* Dup., the name "podalirius" should be applied appears to turn on whether or not Linnaeus possessed the specimen of the African species (now in his collection) at the time he wrote Edition 10.

3. Linnaeus received material from North Africa from Erik Brander, who was Swedish Consul at Algiers, 1753—1765. Verity believes that the Linnean specimen of *P. feisthamelii* was obtained in this way. It is known that Brander sent specimens to Queen Ludovica Ulrica also (see letter from Brander to Linnaeus dated 23. viii. 1756) although, be it noted, there is no reference to Africa in the habitat given for *P. podalirius* in *Mus. Lud. Ulr*. In Linnaeus' own marked copy of Edition 10, *P. podalirius* is not marked as being in his own collection, although it is so marked in the Linnaean copy of Edition 12. There is no mention of Brander in Edition 10, although he is mentioned several times in Edition 12 in the descriptions of Lepidoptera and some of the insects (but not all) attributed to Brander are marked in the Linnean copy of Edition 12 as being in Linnaeus' collection, where, in fact, they have been found. There is, then, much justification for Verity's view that neither *P. podalirius* auctt. nor *P. feisthameli* Dup. were known to Linnaeus at the time he wrote Edition 10, except from figures.

4. If the type of *P. podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758, is not a specimen in the Linnean Collection it can only be one of the specimens on which the descriptions of Ray, Rösel, or Réaumur were based. As only the first-named author gave localities, it may seem reasonable to take one of these and thus finally establish the identity of "podalirius". If the choice lies between Etruria and England, the former is preferable because it accords with the Linnean habitat of South Europe and it

[†] According to Verity, *P. podalirius* and *P. feisthamelii* Dup. fly together in Spain and Portugal and even down to Tangiers in Morocco.

is doubtful if the butterfly occurred in England within historic times. On the other hand, can Aurivillius' selection (*Rec. Crit. Lep. Mus. Lud. Ulr.*, p. 28) be lightly set aside ?

Why Linnaeus added "Africa" to the habitat in Editions 10 and 12 is not known but it must not be overlooked that this mention is a point in favour of the specimen of *P. feisthamelii* being in Linnaeus' possession at the time he wrote Edition 10.

5. The balance of the evidence suggests that there was no specimen before Linnaeus when he first introduced the name "podalirius" and so the type locality must be fixed from the data given by Ray, Rösel or Réaumur. Aurivillius' selection of Rösel's figures fixed "podalirius" as the European species (presumably the German form) and it is suggested that this should be followed.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On the receipt of Dr. Corbet's letter, the problem dealt with in the present *Opinion* was given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 183. As soon as practicable thereafter, discussions were started with Dr. Corbet, by Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, who, as a lepidopterist, was already familiar with the problem involved, the object of these discussions being to settle the precise nature of the request to be submitted to the International Commission and, generally, to finalise Dr. Corbet's application which, as it will have been seen (paragraph 1) was submitted only in draft form. These discussions were completed in the summer of 1946, and on 15th August of that year, the outcome was formally placed on record by Mr. Hemming in the following paper which was then placed in the Commission's File Z.N.(S.) 183 :—

On the need for action by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to put an end to the confusion arising from the present doubts as to the identity of the species to which the name "Papilio podalirius" Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) is applicable

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. (London)

My old friend Dr. Roger Verity of Florence performed a valuable service when just before the First World War he carried out a critical examination of the butterflies preserved in the Linnean collection at Burlington House (" Revision of the Linnaean Types of Palaearctic Rhopalocera". Verity, 1913, J. linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.) 32: 173-191). It was unfortunate, however, that this paper was published before the grant to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913, of Plenary Powers to suspend the application of the *Règles* in cases where strict application would lead to serious confusion, especially where under the Règles it is necessary to transfer some well-known name from one species to another. For some of the conclusions reached by Dr. Verity in the light of his study of the Linnean material ledor, if generally adopted, would have led-to the most serious confusion. The fact that in a number of cases these conclusions have not been widely adopted in no way detracts from the threat to nomenclatorial stability represented by them. It has long been evident that the restoration of stability in the nomenclature of the species concerned can be secured only by action by the International Commission under its Plenary Powers. No doubt, applications for the use of the Plenary Powers in those cases would have been submitted to the Commission long ago, had it not been for the marked reluctance which unfortunately the Commission for long showed in the use of those Powers. The much more liberal policy adopted by the Commission at Lisbon in 1935 under pressure from the International Congress of Entomology which had just met at Madrid gives grounds for hoping that in future applications of this type submitted by responsible specialists will receive more sympathetic treatment.

2. Few, if any, of the conclusions reached by Dr. Verity were calculated to cause greater nomenclatorial confusion than that in regard to the nominal species *Papilio podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1**: 463, *nota*). For the benefit of those zoologists who may be called upon to consider this case but who are not personally acquainted with the details, it may be explained that there are two species (as many specialists, including myself, consider)—or (as other specialists consider) two very strongly differentiated subspecies of a single species—of Swallow-Tail Butterfly belonging to the genus *Iphiclides* Hübner [1819], found in the Western Palaearctic Region. These may be distinguished for the present purposes by their area of distribution which are substantially distinct : Species "A", to which the trivial name *podalirius* Linnaeus has been almost universally applied for nearly two hundred years, which is widely distributed in Central and Southern Europe ; Species (or subspecies) "B", which occurs in North Africa and enters Europe in the Iberian Peninsula, which was originally described from Barcelona and which has been known consistently by the trivial name *feistamalii* Duponchel, ever since that name was published in 1832. The need for action by the International Commission in the present case arises from the fact that Dr. Verity found only one Linnean specimen labelled *podalirius* and that specimen is referable not to species "A" (the species universally known by the trivial name *podalirius* Linneus) but to species (or subspecies) "B", i.e. the Spanish and North African insect habitually known by the trivial name *feisthamelii* Duponchel. Thus, if the *Règles* were to be strictly applied in the present case, it would be necessary (a) to transfer the name *podalirius* Linnaeus from the common Central and South European Species "A" to the Spanish and North African Species "B", a transfer which would give rise to great confusion, and (b) to apply some other name—actually, the name *sinon* Poda, 1761 (*Papilio sinon* Poda, 1761, *Ins. Mus. graec.* : 62, pl. 2, fig. 2)—to the Central and South European species, a change which would cause great inconvenience and at least initially considerable confusion.

3. I have long had in mind that at some stage a request must be made to the International Commission for action under the Plenary Powers to prevent the confusion inevitable under a strict application of the Règles in this case, but I felt that, before such an application was submitted, it would be helpful if the Linnean material were to be re-examined, so that the Commission, when considering the proposed application, might have before it an up-to-date appraisal of that material by way of supplement to that made by Dr. Verity some thirty years ago. When therefore early in the war I learnt that Dr. A. Steven Corbet (British Museum (Natural History)), in conjunction with his colleague Mr. W. H. T. Tams, was carrying out a fresh examination of the Linnean Lepidoptera, I asked Dr. Corbet to give special consideration to the problem represented by the name Papilio podalirius and, having done so, to furnish a statement of his conclusions which could form the basis of an application to the International Commission for remedial action. I was therefore very pleased when I received Dr. Corbet's letter, with enclosure, of 18th March 1945², setting out the conclusions which he had reached.

4. I have since discussed this matter in some detail with Dr. Corbet, whose paper of this case was, it will be recalled, expressly marked as being a "draft" and contained no concrete proposal for submission to the Commission. In that paper Dr. Corbet marshalled the available evidence and advanced the view that it might be possible to claim that Linnaeus described *Papilio podalirius* in 1758 only from previously published descriptions and without any actual specimens before him, and therefore, that the undoubted Linnean specimen of *feisthamelii* Duponchel preserved in his collection under the name *podalirius* may not have been received by Linnaeus until after the publication of the Tenth Edition of the *Systema Naturae* in 1758. While I agree that the method adopted by Linnaeus in describing this species—that is, the fact that he described it in a footnote instead of in the main text—lends some colour to the theory that in 1758 he was not personally acquainted either with Species "A" (the Central and Southern European species), that theory is, I am convinced quite

² Reproduced in the first paragraph of the present Opinion.

untenable. For, if (as this theory requires) Linnaeus in 1758 knew nothing of either species except what he could glean from the works of the three authors (Ray; Rösel; Réaumur) whom he cited, all of whom were concerned only with European insects and only one of whom gave a locality for this species, it would be impossible to explain away the fact that, in addition to having in his collection an African specimen (belonging to Species "B"), he stated in the original description of this species that the species occurred in Africa "Habitat in Europae australis et Africae Brassica". The existence of the African specimen in the Linnean collection might be accounted for by claiming that that specimen was received by Linnaeus on some date subsequent to 1758, but it would be stretching credibility altogether too far, if in addition it were necessary to argue that the reference, in the original description, to Africa as part of the area in which this species occurs was no more than some extraordinary coincidence or an inexplicable piece of clairvoyance on the part of Linnaeus. I have put this view to Dr. Corbet who now agrees that his former theory can no longer be regarded as tenable and that it must be concluded that Linnaeus was acquainted with the African species (feisthamelii), of which very likely a specimen or specimens had been sent to Linnaeus by Erik Brander who was Swedish Consul at Algiers in the period 1753-1765, and who is known to have supplied Linnaeus at various times with specimens of North African butterflies.

5. In a case of this sort finality can be obtained only by the use by the International Commission of its Plenary Powers to direct that the name in question (in the present instance, the trivial name podalirius Linnaeus) shall be used in some particular way and in no other. It is necessary therefore to consider at this stage the precise form of the proposal which it is desirable should be submitted to the International Commission. It would, of course, be possible to select some modern figure or description which indubitably applies to Species "A" (the common Central and South European species) and to ask the Commission under its Plenary Powers to direct that the figure or description so selected shall constitute the unique standard of reference for identifying the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species Papilio podalirius Linnaeus, 1758. In many cases such a course would be the most advantageous, in that it would eliminate all possibility of doubt as to the identity of the species to which it is desired to tie a given name. It happens, however, that an equally satisfactory result can be secured by selecting for the foregoing purpose one of the bibliographical references used by Linnaeus in 1758 as the basis for his nominal species Papilio podalirius. Neither the reference to Rösel nor that to Réaumur would be satisfactory from this point of view, for, although there is no doubt that it was Species "A" (the common Central and South European species) with which those authors were dealing, the selection of either reference would give rise to fresh difficulties in the case of a polytypic species such as that with which we are here concerned, for the descriptions given by these authors are quite insufficient to provide a guide at the subspecies level and no

localities for this species were cited by either. The position is quite otherwise in the case of Ray, the first of the three authors cited by Linnaeus, for his description, coupled with the precise particulars which he gives as regards the locality in which his specimens were taken make the position at the subspecies level, as well as at the species level. absolutely clear. For of this species he wrote : "Prope Liburnum, portum in Etruria invenimus, atque etiam, ni male memini, in Anglia". The locality "Anglia" is incorrect for this species and is ineligible for consideration in the present context in view of the fact that it was a locus inquirendum from the standpoint of Ray. Accordingly the selection of the reference given by Linnaeus to Ray to be the standard by which the nominal species Papilio podalirius is to be interpreted would not only fix the identity of the taxonomic species represented by Linnaeus' nominal species beyond possibility of argument but would also in addition fix with equal precision the identity of the nominotypical subspecies of that nominal species, for that subspecies would automatically be that found in the neighbourhood of Livorno in Tuscany.

6. The foregoing is therefore the designation which I suggest the International Commission should be asked to make in this case. I have discussed this question both with Dr. Corbet and with Mr. N. D. Riley (*Keeper, Department of Entomology, British Museum, London*), each of whom is in agreement with the course suggested. Dr. Corbet has asked that his proposal to the International Commission should be interpreted in this sense.

3. Issue of Public Notices : On 14th November 1947 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of determining the identity of the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Papilio podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758, was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objection to the action proposed.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

4. One of the first matters connected with the wording of the *Règles* to be considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at its Session held in Paris in 1948 was

338

the clarification and reform of Article 31, the Article concerned with the designation of holotypes and the selection of lectotypes (Paris Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 11) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**: 73—76). It was in the light of the conclusions so reached that the present application was considered by the International Commission at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out the decision reached by it in this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 27) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4**: 497—499) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :---

- (1) to use their Plenary Powers to direct that the reference to "Raj. ins. iii n. 3" (i.e. Ray (J.), 1710, Hist, Ins. : 111 n. 3) cited by Linnaeus, when in 1758 he first published the name *Papilio podalirius* was to be treated as representing the type specimen of that species and therefore that the trivial name *podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination cited above) was to be applied to the species there described by Ray from specimens taken at Livorno in Tuscany (" prope Liburnum, portum Etruriae");
- (2) to place the undermentioned trivial names on the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology :--
 - *podalirius* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Papilio podalirius*), as defined in (1) above ;
 - *feisthameli*¹ Duponchel, 1832 (as published in the binominal combination *Papilio feisthameli*) (without prejudice to the prior rights of the trivial name

¹ For an explanation of the use of a single terminal "-i" for this name see paragraph 8 below.

podalirius Linnaeus, 1758, from the standpoint of specialists who regard these as the names of subspecies of a single collective species);

(3) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) and (2) above.

5. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on Monday, 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5: 116).

6. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :---

Beltrán vice Cabrera; Boschma; Bradley; di Caporiacco; Hemming; Hindle vice Jordan; Jorge vice do Amaral; Kirby vice Stoll; Lemche vice Dymond; Mansour vice Hankó; Metcalf vice Peters; Riley vice Calman; Rode; Spärck vice Mortensen; van Straelen vice Richter; Usinger vice Vokes.

7. The ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

8. It must be noted also that, in view of the fact that it was decided by the Paris Congress in 1948 that infringements of the provision in the concluding portion of Article 14 of the *Règles* (which at that time required that, where a trivial name was based on the modern patronymic of a man, that name should be formed by the addition to that patronymic of the genitive termination

"-i") should be subject to automatic correction (1950, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 4:67-68), the specific name feisthamelii Duponchel, 1832, as published in the combination Papilio feisthamelii, was automatically corrected to feisthameli before being cited in the Conclusion reached by the Commission in Paris, quoted in paragraph 4 of the present Opinion. At its meeting held at Copenhagen in 1953 the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology reviewed the decision taken by the Paris Congress in this matter and agreed to amend Article 14 in such a way as to provide that in cases such as that referred to above the terminations "-i" and "-ii" shall be permissible variants, the differences between them to have no nomenclatorial significance (1953, Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl. : 54). Accordingly, in the Ruling given in the present Opinion the "-ii" spelling for the specific name feisthamelii Duponchel, 1832, as published in the combination Papilio feisthamelii, has been restored.

9. The following are the original references for the names placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

feisthamelii, Papilio, Duponchel, 1832, in Godart, Hist. nat. Lépid. France, Suppl. 1 (Diurnes) : 7, pl. 1, fig. 19" Barcelone " podalirius, Papilio, Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 1:463, nota

10. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the Official Index reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

11. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

12. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Sixty-Three (263) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Fifth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

FRANCIS HEMMING